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## Letter dated 10 December 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008) and 1895 (2009), I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 3 December 2010, which I received from Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, transmitting the twenty-third quarterly report on the activities of the European military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex). The report covers the period from 1 June to 31 August 2010.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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## Annex

### Letter dated 3 December 2010 from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008) and 1895 (2009), I attach the twenty-third quarterly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see enclosure). The report covers the period from 1 June to 31 August 2010.

I should be grateful if you would transmit the report to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Catherine **Ashton**

## Enclosure

# Report of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

## I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the period from 1 June to 31 August 2010.

2. The Security Council in its resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006), 1785 (2007), 1845 (2008) and 1895 (2009), requested that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union, report to the Council on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), through the appropriate channels and at least at three-monthly intervals. The present document is the twenty-third such report.

## II. Political background

3. The campaign for the general election on 3 October continued to be dominated by divisive political rhetoric. There was a decline in dialogue between political leaders. The 22 July advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo also affected the political climate.

4. In respect of visa liberalization, considerable progress and strong political will for reforms were registered by the visa expert team in July. The European Commission was in the process of finalizing its assessment. Decisions by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union are expected during the fourth quarter of 2010.

5. Otherwise, however, there was little progress on the overall reform agenda. There was no progress in addressing the five objectives and two conditions required for closure of the Office of the High Representative. In the area of State and defence property, Republika Srpska announced its intention of passing a law defying the High Representative's ban on the disposal of State property prior to a final agreement by the parties. The meeting of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, held on 29 and 30 June, expressed its concern over the lack of progress in addressing the relevant objectives for transition. It urged the authorities to ensure that the five objectives of the Office of the High Representative workplan were completed.

6. On 30 June, the Brcko Supervisor issued a supervisory order regulating the price of electricity in the District. Meanwhile closure of the supervisory regime remained on hold, pending Republika Srpska compliance with the High Representative's decisions of 18 September 2009 regarding the regulatory framework for electricity.

7. There was no progress on constitutional changes following the European Court of Human Rights ruling of December 2009. The Law on Census was adopted by the House of Representatives, but not by the House of Peoples (readings on 29 July and 2 September).

8. The financial situation, especially the Federation, continues to be difficult. At the end of August, the International Monetary Fund agreed to disburse the fourth

tranche of its loan (€38 million) since the necessary conditions had been met. Disbursement was expected by the end of September.

## III. Security situation and activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

9. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained calm and stable throughout the reporting period. Although nationalistic rhetoric persisted, it had no impact on the safe and secure environment. The unfavourable economic situation, together with late payment of salaries, led to further strikes in Sarajevo and other major cities. These were handled professionally and capably by Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies and had no impact on the overall security situation.

10. On 27 June, an explosion occurred at the Bugojno police station, killing one police officer and injuring six others. Several suspects have been arrested. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Prosecution Office is leading the investigation, in close cooperation with the State Investigation and Protection Agency.

11. The force of some 2,000 EUFOR troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR continued to conduct operations in line with its mandate: providing deterrence; ensuring continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, annexes 1A and 2; and contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment. EUFOR continued to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies in fighting organized crime in close cooperation with the European Union Police Mission. EUFOR also continued to stand ready to support the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in search of persons indicted for war crimes. EUFOR monitored the fifteenth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre, which passed without incident.

12. Implementation of the new non-executive capacity-building tasks of the operation commenced during the reporting period: full operational capability was achieved on 1 July 2010. EUFOR participated in a number of combined capacity-building and training conferences together with representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

13. EUFOR and the Armed Forces continued to conduct combined training in accordance with the EUFOR Armed Forces training calendar by including specialized training elements, and in line with international training requirements and standards.

14. EUFOR continued to monitor, mentor and advise in order to enhance the self-sustainability of Bosnia and Herzegovina capabilities. In this context, EUFOR monitored activities related to ammunition and weapons storage sites, civilian and military movement of weapons and military equipment, disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition, and defence industry factories. Demining activities have also continued. According to the Bosnia and Herzegovina mine action strategy (2009-2019), the territory should be free of mines by 2019.

## IV. Outlook

15. The security situation is expected to remain stable, despite the prospects of continuing political tension.